



Regional Alliance for Resilient and Equitable Transportation

MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, May 27th, 2020

10:00am-12:00pm

GoToMeeting Call-In

Participants: Alex Hatcher (Center for Independence), Alex O'Reilly (City of Bellevue Human Services), Ann Kennedy (Paratransit Services), Anne Marie Jehle (King County Metro Accessible Services), Belina Van (Catholic Community Services), Brock Howell (SNOTRAC), Chris Bekkouri (Bethany at Silver Lake Nursing Facility), Cliff Perry (Northshore Senior Center), Deborah Witmer (City of Seattle Vulnerable Populations Coordinator), Ellen Montanana (City of Bellevue Emergency Management), Ivan Tudela (Pierce County Department of Emergency Management), Jeremy Trenhaile (King County Metro Accessible Services), Jerri Kelly (Pierce County Community Connections), Jon Morrison Winters (Aging and Disability Services), Judy Brown (Northwest Hospital), Karen Johnston (MV Transit), Mandy Wes (Alliance of People with disAbilities), Mark Smutny (Sound Generations), Matthew Kenna (WSDOT), Mike Ryan (Emergency Management SHS Region 6/Zone One), Monica Ghosh (WSDOT), Nicholas Solari (King County Public Health), Pat Kenny (Red Cross), Robert Blumenfeld (Alliance of People with disAbilities), Sam Nigh (SHAG), Todd Holloway (Center for Independence)

Staff Support: Bree Boyce & Nathan Emory

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting began at 10:00am and attendees provided introductions.

RARET staff provided an update from the last Steering Committee meeting including that Brock Howell of SNOTRAC is now serving as the Snohomish representative which now fills all representation on the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee also talked about what else RARET could be doing to respond to COVID-19 such as proactive resource sharing, partnering on educational campaigns, anticipating gaps that will be created as providers reinstate normal services, and the idea of holding a provider summit in the late summer.

RARET staff will be doing an interview on Friday, May 29th with the National Center for Mobility Management and are requesting quotes from RARET members to be included in this national write-up. Please contact Nathan Emory at NEmory@hopelink.org to contribute to this.

Monica Ghosh shared that the [Washington State Transit Association \(WSTA\) Conference](#) that was scheduled to be held in Spokane in August will be moved to a virtual platform and more info

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will follow. It was later suggested that RARET should consider presenting at this conference rather than schedule a separate provider summit in the same timeframe.

UPDATE: 2020 WORKPLAN

RARET staff shared that the Steering Committee has agreed we should find balance between responding to emerging needs such as COVID-19 with regular workplan projects. We reviewed the projects we had scheduled to be working on in calendar year quarters 1 and 2 which have been delayed due to COVID-19. These include the [Adverse Weather Driver Training Resource](#) page which is closed for now and will be revisited in the Fall for revamping. The second project focuses on efforts to establish a transportation provider alliance. Much more work is currently occurring in regard to building this alliance due to the weekly phone calls that RARET staff are making for transportation impact updates. The third project focus on supporting the development of county/regional plans. Not much progress is occurring on this project right now other than the partnership development that is happening. The majority of these projects feed into project 6 where we will finalize and test the regional plans during Cascadia Rising.

As workplan next steps we will continue to seek balance in RARET's response to COVID-19 and workplan projects. We plan to make significant progress this year in terms of partner relations and formalizing the provider alliance. We are also considering holding a sort of provider summit in late summer which would also help to solidify this alliance. Multiple members expressed that there should be a virtual option for this summit and a platform that would allow for breakout rooms. It was also suggested to include senior centers, community centers, assisted living centers, food banks/providers, etc. in these conversations and to get a better idea of when they plan to re-open and how to support their members. RARET may be able to partner with [WA State Transit Association Conference](#) since they will already be convening partners in August on a virtual platform.

We also discussed the idea of initiating a planning committee for this summit and interested participants included Ivan Tudela, Mark Smutny, Monica Ghosh, Chris Bekkouri, and Jon Morrison Winters. If you are interested in contributing to these planning efforts, please contact Nathan Emory at NEmory@hopelink.org.

Other topics to address:

- Who is reopening, when, and what does that process look like?
- Impacts of layoffs for years to come
- People starting to do their own thing despite guidance

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- Funding opportunities/decreased ridership impacts on funding
- What are the impacts on people's access to services/communities? Even after things re-open there will be people that still don't go out or ride transit? How do we meet their needs?

PROJECT UPDATE: COVID IMPACT SUMMARY

RARET staff provided an overview of the [Weekly COVID-19 Transportation Impact Summaries](#). This process involves making weekly phone calls/emails/researching public information to get updates from about 45 transportation providers in Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties. These newsletters are intended to highlight the service changes from week to week, emerging community needs, and various resources such as food banks and funding opportunities. The primary audience for this is transportation providers and partners, though we strive to write it in a way that is also useful for end-users.

RARET staff has also developed a [Quick Guide](#) which is a spreadsheet that partners can reference to more easily filter the information. RARET members suggested to more clearly highlight this Quick Guide in the newsletter perhaps by also adding a screenshot of the document and including a description. Judy shared the weekly impact summaries and website are not very accessible and the information is challenging to get through with screen readers. It was suggested to add quick links to help with this.

Various members shared how useful the Impact Summaries have been, that they appreciate the information being categorized by county, and how they share the information with their networks. It was suggested to utilize the weekly provider calls to better understand examples of solutions, ways they've collaborated, and their plans for re-opening so we can share this out with more people. It was also suggested to "clean up" the design of the newsletter and use fewer words as it is a large document with a lot of information to digest.

RARET also engaged in a discussion about the need to convene partners on a more regular basis for increased collaboration and information sharing. RARET staff shared that this has been challenging due to capacity constraints but that they hope to set up more informal bi-weekly meetings with partners in each individual county. RARET staff have been convening weekly check-ins with Pierce County partners which was very helpful for mitigating emerging needs and has since moved to a bi-weekly schedule. Members also expressed interest in more frequent tri-county meetings, perhaps on a monthly basis. The following lists are RARET members who expressed interest in participating in these county check-ins.

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- Snohomish:
 - Brock Howell
 - Marianna Hanefeld
- King:
 - Alex O'Reilly
 - Jon Morrison Winters
 - Monica Ghosh
 - Jeremy Trenhaile
- Pierce
 - Ann Kennedy
 - Monica Ghosh

RARET staff shared that they will also be producing an after-action report and survey to providers and end users which are currently in draft stages. Other members shared that they have not yet started on their after-action reports but would like to collaborate on this in the future. RARET members encouraged strategic outreach to people with access and functional needs such as people with disabilities, limited English proficiency, undocumented people, and generally underserved populations.

DISCUSSION: COVID-19

The group began by discussing the ramp up of testing services/sites. It was noted that there will still be an increase in these sites and that they will have to accommodate both walk up and drive through facilities. The group wanted to make sure that attention was paid to the access and functional needs community, acknowledging that transportation has already created barriers during COVID-19. It was also noted that finding drivers willing, and able, to assist with COVID positive patients is very difficult and that challenges have already been identified with both paid and volunteer driver pools. Partners noted that some individuals who are symptomatic have already been turned down for trips. Also, scheduling these trips poses problems, as the time it takes for an individual to get tested puts a strain on vehicle availability.

Efforts have already begun on contact tracing, with the goal of identifying individuals in close proximity to those affected. Public Health is looking into how to transport patients with close contact to someone who tested positive or provide in home testing. If anyone has ideas on how to work around these problems, please contact nicholas.solari@kingcounty.gov.

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Next the conversation pivoted to the decrease in ridership and the gaps that will be created as providers resume normal operations. The group noted that food delivery is likely to continue and that there will be gaps created by both the lack of riders and the need to continue delivering food/supplies to individuals who are scared or can't leave their homes. It was also brought up that ridership will increase eventually but the timeline for that is very uncertain. RARET members continued to talk about possible solutions, such as tech-companies' shuttles or Vanpools, and how we can creatively work around this as a region. It is anticipated that we may be able to identify vehicles to continue these operations but that the challenge will be in securing enough drivers.

Monica Ghosh shared about WSTA/WSDOT's webinar "[FEMA Public Assistance Program: Finding Financial Resources for Your Community](#)" on Thursday, June 4th at 10:00am PST. Judy Brown also shared that United Blind of Seattle has created a [COVID-19 resources page](#) intended to be accessible and to have information of interest to the blind and low vision community.

PRESENTATION: PIERCE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ivan Tudela gave a presentation about working in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), having weekly partner meetings with RARET, and Compassion Fatigue. The EOC opened in early March and works by facilitating the flow of resources and information out to appropriate partners and the community. Shortly after the opening of the EOC for Pierce County, weekly meetings were set up with members of the EOC and RARET to discuss emerging needs and best practices. Various partners were invited to these meetings from EOC staff to human service agencies to Pierce Transit. These calls helped to identify emerging community needs (such as methadone transportation during COVID) and connected people to help deconflict, come up with solutions, and connect to resources.

After discussing the EOC and partner meetings, Ivan Tudela gave a presentation on Compassion Fatigue. Currently the Trauma Resilience team has given presentations to schools, case workers, the United Way, and a variety of other partners in an attempt to increase resiliency and assist with the emotional impacts of isolation. This includes tips on self-care, such as meditation or a buddy system, and a reminder that compassion fatigue and burnout are two different things. It is important to be mindful that compassion fatigue caught early on can be mitigated. This is a global pandemic and despite the social distancing we are not alone in sharing the same stressors and fatigue. Remember take care of yourself first. For additional information on compassion fatigue or to schedule a presentation for your organization please reach out to ivan.tudela@piercecountywa.gov.

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Mike Ryan with King County's Emergency Management department reminded attendees that local emergency management is available for you in any way they can be. The King County EOC has been activated throughout this process, has been working closely with each city, and is making available cloth masks. For more information about masks or EOC operations in King County please contact Mike Ryan at mryan@bellevuewa.gov or King County's office of Emergency Management at rcecc.logs@kingcounty.gov or 206-296-3830.

ACTION ITEMS

- RARET staff to schedule bi-weekly partner meetings for each county and look into monthly tri-county meetings
- RARET staff to send out Compassion Fatigue PowerPoint
- RARET staff to incorporate feedback to Impact Summaries and website

NEXT MEETING

July 22nd 10:00am-12:00pm via GoToMeeting

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/834385869>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (571) 317-3122

Access Code: 834-385-869

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